

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Health Services Council**  
**Project Review Committee-I**

**DATE: 11 July 2006**

**TIME: 2:30 PM**

**LOCATION: Health Policy Forum**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee I: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Edward F. Almon, John W. Flynn, Robert S.L. Kinder, M.D., Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair)**

**Not Present: John Young**

**Excused Absence: Robert Bernstein, Joseph V. Centofanti, M.D., John Keimig, Richard Lepine, Robert Ricci**

**Other Members: Present: Larry Ross**

**Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Jeffrey Garber (Intern)**

**Public: (Attached)**

## **1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Time Extension for the Minutes Availability**

**The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The Chairman requested a motion for the approval of the May 9 and 16 minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed by five in favor and none opposed (5-0). The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by five in favor and none opposed (5-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Almon, Flynn, Kinder, and Quigley.**

## **2. General Order of Business**

**First item on the agenda was the application of South County Hospital Healthcare System for a Certificate of Need to construct a 10-bed Orthopedic/Airborne Infection Isolation unit and relocate and renovate the ICU. Staff passed out and reviewed the cost impact statement from Blue Cross Blue Shield. The impact on premium rates was projected to be less than 0.01% equaling \$0.03 per client per month.**

**The applicant stated that they were granted expeditious review for this project because there was a public health urgency to establish a 10-bed Airborne Isolation Infection (“All:”) Unit to meet the requirements set forth by the HRSA National Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program. The All unit will be located on the second floor and the first floor area will be used to renovate and relocate the ICU unit. The applicant stated that the proposal will not increase bed capacity beyond the license. If the proposal is implemented, the applicant will staff 85 beds of which 5 beds will be used for overflow when needed.**

**The applicant stated that they were the only provider to respond to the state’s RFP to establish an All unit. The applicant stated that the All unit would need a separate air-handling unit to filter the air and maintain negative pressure. The applicant estimated the additional cost for the All system at \$130,000. Staff noted that there was a letter of support from Mr. Williams for the proposal. Mr. Ross inquired is utilizing this unit for orthopedics is appropriate.**

**The applicant reviewed their projections and expects the average daily census in 2009 to reach 8 patients with an occupancy rate of 80%. With regards to the ICU, it is operating at 71% occupancy and is projected occupancy of 92% in 2009. Discussion ensued regarding applicant’s occupancy projections and Mr. Ross requested that the applicant reconcile the projections it presented to those presented for**

**the recent previous Certificate of Need to construct a three-story addition to upgrade 60 general medical and surgical care beds.**

**The Chairman noted his support for the proposal but stated that questions of the Committee members needed to be addressed.**

**A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor and none opposed (5-0) to recommend that the application be approved contingent upon the applicant meeting with staff and providing additional requested information. Those members voting in favor of the motion were: Almeida, Almon, Flynn, Kinder, Quigley.**

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Valentina D. Adamova**